



**KEEP
YOUR
EYES
ON THE
PRIZE!**

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10th Anniversary

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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Fort Gordon security update

Fort Gordon visitors and employees are encouraged to allow a little extra time to get through the gates due to increased security checks at entrances to the post.

Don't forget! Daylight Savings Time

The change for Daylight Savings Time is **Sunday** at 2 a.m. Before going to bed reset clocks ahead one hour.

Easter Egg Hunt

Fort Gordon Easter Egg Hunt is 10 a.m. **April 12** on Engineer Field at the intersection of Avenue of the States and 36th Street.

The hunt is open to the public, ages 12 and under. There are five age groups: 0-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 and 10 - 12. Three grand prizes will be awarded in each group.

The Easter Bunny will visit.

For more information, call 791-6500.

CMU registration

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration. Registration for classes starting in May (Term IV) will be held **April 7 - 25**. Classes being offered are: BIS 634 - information resources management; MSA 640 - quantitative applications in administrative decision-making; and IPC 665 - communication and negotiation in employee relations. For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Building 21606, Barnes Avenue.

Second annual high school technology expo

Fort Gordon is hosting a Technology Expo for local Central Savannah River Area high school students **April 24 - 25** starting at 9 a.m. in Alexander Hall. The day ends 4 - 5 p.m.

Fort Gordon's 15th Signal Regimental Signal Brigade, 93rd Signal Brigade and Leader College of Information Technology is working with the Augusta Recruiting company to highlight the Army's high tech career opportunities.

Students will tour satellite communications training facilities, automation management and maintenance classrooms and get a chance to observe high tech Army communications systems in action.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadet military science instructor or others interested in participating, call Capt. Gina Mitcham, 15th Reg. Sig. Bde. at 791-1003.

Signaling messages through Kuwait



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Hyatt



(Top) Pfc. Jack Bennfield (left) and Cpl. Ernest Washington, Company D, 86th Signal Battalion, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., prepare to install a fiber optic cable at Camp Commando, Kuwait on March 4, 2003. 86th Signal Battalion is assigned to the 11th Signal Brigade and is deployed to Kuwait to provide communications support, including secure and nonsecure telephone and internet service to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. (Left) Sgt. Jeremy Henke, Company C, 63rd Signal Battalion, Fort Gordon, Ga., inspects cable as he removes it from his communications van during a routine inventory and maintenance check at Camp Virginia, Kuwait on March 3, 2003. The 63rd Sig. Bn. is attached to the 11th Signal Brigade and is deployed to Kuwait to provide communications support for units deployed to the Central Command Area Of Responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Above) SPC Alejandra Mancilla, 69th Signal Co., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., works in the Cable Vault at Arifjan, Kuwait, Feb. 21, 2003. The 69th Sig. Co. is assigned to the 11th Signal Brigade and is deployed to Kuwait to provide communications support for units deployed to the Central Command AOR in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On exhibit at Fort Discovery

You still won't believe your eyes!

Denise Allen
Staff writer

An exhibit at the National Science Center's Fort Discovery may just prove an old cliché wrong.

According to the old saying, "seeing is believing," but "Optical Illusions 2 - You Still Won't Believe Your Eyes" might bring a little more doubt than belief.

"It's dealing with how the brain is trained to think," said Ollie Washington, Fort Discovery's engineering chief.

Sometimes what the brain interprets as being real isn't as it seems at all.

The exhibit is made up of about 50 posters and several hands-on pieces;

See *Illusions*, Page 2



Photo by Dr. George Fry

A young visitor to the National Science Center, Fort Discovery's "Optical Illusions 2 - You Still Won't Believe Your Eyes" looks through a pseudoscope for the brain/eye teaser.

3297th Reservists fill the gap to provide medical care for soldiers

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Capt. Jewel Montgomery considered the changes as minimal.

"To me, it's no different. The Army is more structured, but it's the same type of surgeries," said Montgomery, a member of the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital, an Army Reserve unit from Fort Gordon.

Montgomery and 24 others were recognized at a ceremony on March 22 at the Army Reserve Center. They are moving from the civilian realm into active duty to fill slots at Army medical centers vacated by physicians and medical personnel who have been deployed into the Middle East.

Montgomery, who has been in the Reserves for 11 years, will be assigned to Eisenhower Army Medical Center. In her civilian job, she is an operating room nurse at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

"We are eager to have you back to care for these soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. We are pleased you are willing to serve," said Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, commanding general of the Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center. "Without you, we could not do what we do."

Schoomaker said the activation of the Reservists would ensure that there would be no gaps in services given to the families of soldiers as they are deployed.

After the ceremony, Schoomaker, who is also a lead agent for Tricare, made his way around the room, talking to the Reservists who'd been activated and made sure that the Reservists knew about the Tricare insurance program.

"Once they become active duty, they are eligible for health benefits," he said. "We want to make sure they are well cared for."

The 25 medical personnel were being deployed to different hospitals in the southeast region.

Lt. Gayle Tignor of Charlotte, N.C., was headed to Fort Rucker, Ala.

"It's a new experience. I look forward to it," said Tignor, who is a physician's assistant in her civilian job.

Tignor has been in the reserves for four years.

"I'm happy to give back. The military gave me a lot. I have no problem serving my country," she said.

As is the case for many, Tignor said the hardest part was going to be the separation from her family.

Her husband's job takes him on the road a lot and their twin daughters were going to Florida to stay with her brother during her one-year in Alabama.

See *Reservist*, Page 2



**Unconditional
Surrender Demanded
of Iraqi Regime**

WASHINGTON – The only thing the coalition is willing to discuss with the leaders of the Iraqi regime is their unconditional surrender, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

To get an idea of the progress the coalition is making in Iraq, people must try to view the world as Saddam Hussein – if he's still alive – sees it, he said.

In northern Iraq, coalition special operations forces are working with local groups to bomb Republican Guard targets and otherwise harass Iraqi forces. The U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade is now at full-strength in the area and is providing security.

In the west, special operations forces are ensuring critical areas are held, and Iraqi forces are not able to fire surface-to-surface missiles at their neighbors.

In the south, coalition divisions are securing Basra, while still others are poised to take on Republican Guard forces before Baghdad.

Rumsfeld traced the actions of the first 12 days of combat. He said most people expected the operation would be much like Desert Storm in 1991.

"In that case, as you'll recall, it was a sustained 38-day air campaign, followed by a brief ground attack," Rumsfeld said. "In this case, the ground attack actually started before the air war, with thousands of special (operations) forces pouring into all regions of the country and a large force rolling across the Kuwaiti border into southern Iraq.

And the Iraqi people are seeing the regime is crashing down, Rumsfeld said. "The majority of Iraqis do not support Saddam Hussein's regime," he said. "Their obedience is based on fear. And that fear is beginning to slip away as coalition forces advance."

Rumsfeld said that the regime is using death squads to maintain the climate of fear among the people and to force men to fight. "They are vicious, to be sure, but they are now taking heavy losses," he said.

And in all this, where is Saddam? "The night before the ground war began, coalition forces launched a strike on a meeting of Iraq's senior command and control, and they have not been heard from since," he said.

The secretary said the Iraqi regime is so desperate that officials are spreading rumors that the coalition has entered into a cease-fire negotiation with them. "Their goal is to try to convince the people of Iraq that the coalition does not intend to finish the job," he said.

"There are no negotiations taking place with anyone in Saddam Hussein's regime," Rumsfeld continued. "There will be no outcome to this war that leaves Saddam Hussein and his regime in power. Let there be no doubt. His time will end — and soon. The only thing that the coalition will discuss with this regime is their unconditional surrender."

Reservist

Jones speaks on Reserve involvement

Pfc. Brooks Taylor
Special to the Signal

In a recent interview with *The Signal* and *The Fort Gordon Report*, Command Sgt. Major Michelle S. Jones, The U.S. Army Reserves command sergeant major, spoke about the role reserves are playing in the ongoing operation in the Middle East.

"Reservists are playing the same role as any other soldier in the war," Jones said. "Reserve component soldiers,

Army Reserve soldiers are everywhere, both CONUS (Continental United States) and OCONUS (Outside Continental United States).

There are very few places that you will not have a Reserve component soldier. You may not know that they're Army Reserve, which is a good thing, this is the Army."

Since most Reservists aren't on duty full-time, they don't train as often as active duty soldiers. However, Jones let us know they don't go into

a combat zone unprepared.

"Anytime a soldier is mobilized, they will go through a period where they train collectively as a unit, but also individually on the special skills that are assigned to the theater they're going into," Jones said.

"Any soldier who's going to go to a mobilization site, a power projection platform, will refresh those skills or in some cases, learn new skills. Equipment that they have at the unit may not be what is actually on the ground at that time."



Illusions

From Page 1

it has many of the same elements of a popular exhibit from about a year ago.

From a distance, the photo mosaic poster looks like astronaut Buzz Aldrin walking on the surface of the moon; however, a closer look shows the overall picture is made of hundreds of tinier pictures of astronauts, rockets blasting off, NASA schematic drawings and other photographs related to the space program.

Depending on how a person perceives "The Flowering of Love," they may see the outline of a couple kissing or single rose.

New to this year's exhibit, which runs through May 11 in the science center's Knox Gallery, are two machines that will play further tricks on the brain.

Looking through a hyperscope has an effect similar to wearing a pair of 3D glasses and viewing a 3D film. The definition of objects is more pronounced and things seem to "jump out."

"This messes with depth perception," said Washington.

Viewing a person with an arm outstretched in the front

through the hyperscope makes it appear as though the person's arm is substantially longer than it is.

A pseudoscope is equipped with several mirrors, which make a person's right eye see the left field of vision and the left eye see the right field of vision.

People do enjoy the optical illusions exhibit when they come, said Kathi Dimmock, Fort Discovery's marketing director.

Bringing it back allows people to see what they may have missed the first time.

Admission to the Knox Gallery is included with paid general admission to Fort Discovery, which is located on Riverwalk in Augusta. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for children, seniors and active military. Members are free, and group rates are available. Fort Discovery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 821-0200 or 800-325-5445. Visit the organization's website at www.NationalScienceCenter.org



Photo by Dr. George Fry

A young girl is puzzled by what she sees at the optical illusions display on exhibit now at Fort Discovery. The exhibit tests the observer's eye to brain perception.

Taxes aren't so bad...

...well, not when you get them prepared on post at the tax center

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

You've heard the saying a million times - "The only things in life you can count on are death and taxes." But, as Capt. Raashid Williams, Legal Assistance attorney and Tax Center officer-in-charge explained, you can also count on the tax center on post preparing your taxes by licensed tax preparers.

"I've seen guys come in here and save \$400 by having their taxes done on post, and there is no reason for eligible clients not to take advantage of this valuable free service," Williams said.

The center is located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, located on 418 B Street here on post. It is open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will be open April 12, for the people doing last-minute ration.

"We try to be open at least two weekdays a month for training holidays, to ensure those service members who can't get here, for whatever reason, during the regular work day have an opportunity to get their taxes done," Williams said.

Surprisingly, Williams, who is in his first year as OIC of the tax center, said not a great deal of people have come for last minute tax preparation.

"It was busier at the beginning of the tax season," he said. "I think deployments may have affected the number of people using the tax center."

Busy indeed. So far, Will-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Staff Sgt. Charles E. Spriggs, Company A, 447th Signal Battalion, helps Barry L. Cox, Co. A, Eisenhower Army Medical Center.



said the tax center, in conjunction with unit tax advisors, are closing in on 2,000 soldiers and retirees for whom the center has prepared taxes.

"My goal is to help as many people as possible," Williams said. "But numbers aren't the most important thing. The most important thing is providing a quality service to those who seek it, and I think we're do-

ing that here. Our customer evaluations have consistently been positive."

So how does one go about getting their taxes done at the post tax center?

Though walk-ins are accepted at the center, Williams said that the preferred method of efficiently getting tax assistance is for the individual to use his/her unit tax advisor. If this is not possible, Williams said personnel can stop by the tax center in Room 118 of the Staff Judge Advocate Building, sign in at the Legal Assistance front desk, and their taxes will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the center, two groups of people are responsible for handling soldier's and retiree's taxes on post, Williams said. The first of these groups are

the unit tax advisors.

"Unit tax advisors have two jobs," Williams explained. "We have those who actually work here in the office, and those who gather the pertinent information at their units and then come to the tax center and load it into our system here. It's a tremendous extra duty, and those that do it really work hard."

He said these soldiers lend their services based on the schedules of their units - a few three to four times weekly, and some every day.

"We have a good number of people here who go above and beyond the call of duty to help their fellow soldiers," Williams said.

The unit tax advisors were selected when the tax center sent out a notice to their units

that tax season was approaching. Once that occurred, Williams said he scheduled training for the selected individuals.

"Representatives from the Internal Revenue Service came up and taught a week-long seminar on tax preparation," Williams explained. "They covered everything from earned income credit to which tax form should be used. At the end of the week, the IRS taught a class on the tax preparation software, Tax Wise."

At the end of the seminar, which Williams said covers the ins-and-outs of the system, he said the prospective advisors are given a test for official certification by the IRS to prepare taxes.

"The course is very in-depth," Williams said, "but it's taught in a manner so that it's clear and understandable."

Once the soldiers pass the test, Williams said the soldiers are trained tax advisors, and are qualified to prepare taxes at the Fort Gordon Tax Center.

"Each unit rep gets a certificate of training to affirm that they've been certified to prepare taxes by the IRS," he said.

The second group are non-paid civilians who voluntarily lend their time to help soldiers and their families prepare their taxes. Like the unit tax advisors, they are trained tax preparers.

"We have great volunteers," Williams said. "Typically they're ex-service members, civilians now, and they bring the most experience to the table. Some have been volunteering here for many years. While other people charge for this type of service, tax center volunteers do it simply to help. They come back, year after year, just out of the goodness of their hearts. It really exemplifies the positives of the Fort Gordon community."



Looking at PRISM

Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, commander for Georgia's National Guard, visited Fort Gordon for an information briefing on Protect, Respond, Inform, Secure, Monitor system. PRISM is a homeland security system said to be a possible solution for interoperability between state and local agencies as well as U.S armed forces.

Referral clinic now available at EAMC

Kathleen Haskell
EAMC Marketing director

The Family Practice Clinic at EAMC is pleased to announce the opening of our Self Referral Clinic. The SRC is designed to provide self care for Family Practice patients with certain uncomplicated medical symptoms. The Department of Defense has published self care guidelines for the treatment of sore throats and urinary tract infections. This will enable our Family Practice patients to come to the SRC for care of these typically uncomplicated medical problems without an appointment.

Patients will be screened for eligibility by the nursing staff and have the appropriate diagnostic tests performed in the SRC. A health care provider will review the results and may prescribe medications as necessary. Some patients will not

qualify for self care due to factors that may complicate these otherwise routine illnesses. Those patients not meeting eligibility requirements will be referred to their provider or to the most appropriate area of care.

The Self Referral Clinic is co-located in the Family Practice Clinic and has been in operation for several months, providing pregnancy testing and other services. We hope that by extending our services to include routine sore throats and urinary tract infections, we will be able to provide more convenient treatments of these common complaints. If you have any questions please call 787-7300.

Editor's note: *Information is provided by: Maj. Richard R. Hightower Jr., M.D., MC, chief, Family Practice Clinic, Eisenhower Army Medical Center.*

Captain promotion pin-on point increased to 40 months

Bruce Anderson
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has raised the time-in-service requirement for promotion to captain from 38 months back to 40 months, effective April 1.

With the increase, the Army begins an incremental return to the 42-month requirement that existed prior to October.

“The higher requirement provides more time for junior officers to prepare for the responsibilities associated with the rank of captain,” said Maj. Patrick T. Budjenska, personnel policy integrator, G1.

In October, the Army started promoting officers to captain after only 38 months of service. The Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act authorized the promotions after 36 months, but the Army opted for 38 months to give junior officers as much training as possible before promoting them to captain.

This accelerated promotion was one facet of the Army's campaign to alleviate a shortage of captains. The shortage was the result of an under-accession of

lieutenants in the early 1990s, which was compounded by attrition during the booming economy of the late 1990s, said personnel officials.

The Army can begin the move back to longer development for its lieutenants because it has exceeded its goal for the number of captains on active duty.

In the six months since reducing the pin-on point to 38 months, 700 more captains elected to remain in the service than was the case in previous years.

While stop-loss has contributed in a minor way to the increase of the Army's overall officer strength, the major causes for the increase in the number of captains are the accelerated promotion of first lieutenants, lower attrition rates among captains, and an increase in the number of captains returning to active duty.

Commanders also had a lot to do with many of the officers' decision to remain on active duty, Budjenska said. “The increase in retention can be attributed to mentorship and counseling by commanders and leaders at all levels.”

Signal CSMs visit Fort Riley, trooper

Sgt. Maj. Ulysses Wesley Mays
Special to The Signal

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Terry, Signal Corps Regimental command sergeant major and Command Sgt. Maj. McKinley Curtis III, Signal Corp School's commandant, recently visited Fort Riley, Kan.

During the visit, they had a wonderful time conducting noncommissioned officers professional development, participating in a 4-mile Signal Regimental Run, and speaking with the Signal soldiers on a variety of issues and concerns. Fort Riley has some of the finest soldiers in the Armed Forces today, a sentiment repeatedly echoed by both Terry and Curtis.

As a part of their visit they also visited with Trooper/Master Sgt. Albert Curley, a Bufalo Soldier of the 9th Cavalry. Trooper Curley served in the United States Army for 28 years and has been a fixture in the Fort Riley community for over 40 years since his retirement.

Trooper Curley is 81 years young and has been married to his beautiful wife, Consuelo, for 60 years.

Trooper/Master Sgt. Albert Curley enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Riley, Kan. in 1940 as a recruit assigned to Troop A, 9th Cavalry (Horse). During his tour of duty at Fort Riley, Curley also served in the 2nd Cavalry School Detachment (Horse).

In 1943, Curley was reassigned to Company B, 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he participated in the Italian Campaign during WWII, (Italy- Romeano-North Apennines-Po Valley). His service also included a tour from 1946 – 1947 with Company I, 24th Infantry Regiment where he participated in the invasion of Ie Shima and Gifu Japan.

In 1947, Curley was reassigned to Fort Riley, Kan., where he was a member of Battery C and S-4 of the 571st Field Artillery Battalion.

In November 1949, Curley was reassigned to the 5012 ASU ATA Company Detachment at Fort Sheridan, Ill. During this same tour of duty, Trooper Curley was transferred to Headquarters Company, 2nd Detachment, 5012 ASU S-4.

In December 1952, Curley was reassigned to the 63rd Ordnance Depot Company, Headquarters 7th Army, Germany, where he was hospitalized in 1955 and sent to the 130th Station Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, and evacuated to Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colo.

In January 1956, Curley was returned to duty and assigned to the 519th Ordnance Company at Fort Carson, Colo., where he was placed on special duty with the post Ordnance Office.

In May 1958, the 519th Ordnance Company was inactivated and Curley was reassigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, United States Army Recruiting Station, Fort Carson, Colo.

In December 1960, Curley was reassigned to the 7th Ordnance Company (SW MSL) (DS) Korea.

In May 1962, Curley was reassigned to Headquarters Company, United States Army Armor Board, Fort Knox, Ky.

In October 1963, Curley was reassigned to the 63rd Ordnance Company (DS) Germany where he was then transferred to the 14th Supply Company and assigned as the company's first sergeant (E-8).

In August 1966, Curley was reassigned to the General Supply Company (DS) at Fort Lee, Va., where he assumed the duties as the company's first



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. McKinley Curtis III, Signal Corp School's commandant, Albert Curley and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Terry, Signal Corps Regimental command sergeant major and Sgt. Maj. Ulysses Wesley Mays, 24th Infantry, Fort Riley.

sergeant and in 1966, the unit was reassigned to the 561st CS Company (GS) in Pleiku, Vietnam.

In November 1967, Curley was assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 541st Service and Supply Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan., where he was reassigned to the 216th Supply Company (DS) as the first sergeant and upon deactivation of the 216th Supply Company in 1968, reassigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, USAG 5021 at Fort Riley, Kan. serving as administration non-commissioned officer with the Office of Director of Logistics, Material Management Division.

Trooper Albert Curley's Awards and Decorations include:

Combat Infantryman Badge
Bronze Star
Purple Heart
Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Good Conduct Medal/Clasp

with Silver 1 Loop
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/3 Bronze Service Stars
World War II Victory Medal
Army Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp
National Defense Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star
Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device (1960)
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm
Unit Citation Badge
Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII
Expert Marksmanship Badge w/Rifle and Carbine Bars

Editor's note: *Article submitted by Sgt. Maj. Ulysses Wesley Mays, 24th Infantry, Signal NCO, Fort Riley, Kan.*

JSLIST vs. BDO

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

No, they're not part of a world wrestling organization but they certainly provide more than a fair share of military might.

Both are crucial elements of the prescribed Mission Oriented Protective Posture chemical protective gear.

Three 93rd Signal Brigade soldiers profiled the differences between the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology and the older Battle Dress Overgarment at Barton Field, March 20.

“MOPP gear degrades soldiers' abilities by about 50 percent,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Pagan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, brigade Nuclear, Biological and Chemical NCOIC. “It will affect you motor skills, vision and increase your temperature by about 10 percent.”

“One of the main advantages of the JSLIST though is that it is cooler and lighter than the BDO,”



said Pagan. “That's because the JSLIST uses an interwoven fiber membrane rather than the charcoal lining.”

The JSLIST has also been designed to allow for an increase in the range of physical motion without a decrease in the overall protective capabilities, said Pagan.

Which is important because troops may find themselves wearing this suit on a regular basis.

The JSLIST has suspenders already attached to the suit bottoms, and the hood is built into the jacket.

When it comes to chemical protection, the soldiers said they take no chances.

“I have confidence in both suits because we conduct NBC training regularly,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gordon May, 67th Signal Battalion, NBC NCOIC. “The 93rd Brigade leadership ensures that every soldier in the brigade certifies quarterly on their chemical protective tasks.”

It should be noted that the BDO is reliable and still widely used throughout the military.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

“While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting......well it has been weeks now. It seems like forever. Some things are fuzzy. His smell is sort of going away from our house. I keep wearing his clothes, like his socks and shirts. His coats are too big, and there are not too many Army things left in his closet. Sometimes now I just sit in front of his closet and look at his clothes. I miss him. His pillow still smells like him and sometimes at night, it is nice to have his pillow close to my head. It is not the same, but it has to do. Any spouse whose husband or wife who has been gone away for a long time understands these feelings.

But I miss more. My sister says I am totally weird, cause the one pair of BDUs he left behind; I keep them in the front seat of our car. She says it is weird, but it is comforting seeing them there.

It is weird I can not seem to get out of the morning rituals we had now he is gone, though I never liked it when he woke so early to go to PT. Men, who are trained to sneak through the jungles, seem to plod through the house. Maybe stealth is not available first thing in the wee hours. But now the plods are gone. And the smell of his coffee pot does not whiff down the hall at 5 a.m. And I should be able to sleep an hour more. I have been so used to sort of waking while he was getting ready to go, hearing the water running while he was shaving, and smelling the shaving cream in the bathroom when he was done. There was the creak of his closet door when he opened it to get his PT clothes and socks. Before he would leave he would kiss me good-bye, and then I could fall back asleep until it was time to get the kids up. Now I seem to wake up when he would have, and I can't go back to sleep. The smells, sounds and affection are not there. I should be able to just sleep in, and enjoy this new quiet time I have dreaming a bit longer. I hope that will change as I get used to the new pattern at home. Oddly I even miss the smelly PT clothes he brought home, now I know things are just not right.

I miss him sharing reading to the children at night. Though now for the children, story time has become a cornerstone of our time together. Then I miss my husband is missing the sharing time with us together.

Now that dad is gone, my daughter and I both read to my son. The stories are all changed so he is the main character, and it causes him to giggle, and say “no that’s not right”. His sister now puts him to bed with a special wave thing with his covers. We both kiss him, and all lights stay on. This time together reading each night, has been a great help to all of us as a family. Though it doesn’t replace the smells and the sounds, it has helped ground me...*while I am waiting.*

Editor’s note: “*While I am waiting*” is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.

Signals from the heart

Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker

Commander, Eisenhower Army Medical Center

This is the first of what will be a regular column in *The Signal* on your health and health care here at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon and Augusta. I am grateful for this opportunity to speak with you directly about illness and injury prevention and treatment as it relates to you, your unit, and your family. While I may discuss issues concerning national, DoD-wide or Army-wide health problems or remedies, I promise that it will always be related to how we serve you here at EAMC.

In this column I would like to address how you can assist my staff and me in providing honest, candid, and timely feedback on improving your health and health care.

Here in the medical center we have in place many avenues for you to express any concerns about your experiences here. Our principle “problem solver” and the person you should contact for immediate assistance is our Patient Representative, Vivian Swihart. Her office is located on the second floor near the Pharmacy or you

can call her at 787-4656/7820.

There are two additional means of providing input to us that I want you to know about.

First, we have reestablished our Consumer Health Council. This council is designed to serve as a health consumer advocacy committee that promotes direct feedback from unit and community representatives. It also serves as a forum for raising concerns related to the type and quality of health care provided in the medical center. In a future article I will provide a list of the members’ names and phone numbers. If you are interested in being a permanent member of the Council, I encourage you to contact Maj. Cheryl Goggins at 787-2979.

Second, we are about to launch a Provider-Level Patient Satisfaction Survey Program here at Eisenhower. The survey will come to you in one of two ways. The long-form survey is a two-page mail survey designed to capture your satisfaction with your visit here. It will be mailed to your home within two business days after your appointment. The survey will include additional questions about access to your provider and the medical center as well as the services offered here.

There will be a short form survey that will provide you with a unique passcode and a toll-free telephone number where you can use the interactive voice response method to complete the survey.

Both surveys are anonymous and both are designed to capture candid feedback about your provider and your experience with him during your visit. We are scheduled to begin the Provider-Level Patient Satisfaction Survey Program on May 1.

My staff and I take your concerns very seriously and your feedback is important to us. We use your feedback to continuously strive to improve your health and your health care experience here at Eisenhower.

In closing, I ask you to please take advantage of these avenues to express any concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Editor’s note: *If you have areas of concern or would like a certain issue addressed in the “Signals from the Heart” column, please call or e-mail the DDEAMC Public Affairs Officer, Jennifer Chipman. She can be reached at 787-5301 or Jennifer.Chipman@seamedd.army.mil.*

Commentary: Are you a transforming mammal, bug or dinosaur?

Patrick Swan

WASHINGTON - Something happened a long time ago that led to change on our planet.

One popular theory is that a large meteor crashed into the Earth, dramatically altering the environment. As a result, we believe the dinosaurs perished, the bugs stubbornly survived and the mammals thrived.

A few years ago, another meteor slammed into the Earth, at least in a figurative sense. We call that meteor Army Knowledge Online, www.us.army.mil.

Since its inception in 1999, AKO has delivered the tools, information, and services that best helps the Army to serve the country at any time and from every station. AKO is the pivotal tool in transforming the Army into a knowledge-based organization. And, as the one stop for Army information, AKO is strategically changing the way the Army does business.

It enables greater knowledge sharing among Army communities, provides a career lifetime e-mail address, a customizable portal, online transaction-processing capabilities, and is accessible to its customers anywhere in the world. To face the many challenges of a changing future, AKO continuously enhances its capabilities as technology is developed and the needs of the Army demand.

And the thing is, AKO is not some abstract concept that is “coming soon” to a post, camp or station near you. It has already hit the Army — and hit the Army hard. How well soldiers and civilians adapt to AKO will determine whether they trot in the footsteps of the dinosaurs, bugs or mam-

mals of our day.

Those soldiers who emulate dinosaurs are those who generally avoid computers. They still do things by hand (rather than by fingers on a keyboard). They fill out leave forms by hand. They plot their movements with grease pencil over acetate on hard-copy maps. They share information in person with only the first rung in their chain of command. These soldiers are dinosaurs in the network-centric, transformed Army of the 21st Century. They don’t look for new ways of doing business.

Other soldiers will acknowledge AKO by dutifully, if not reluctantly, signing up for AKO accounts, as required by the 2001 joint memorandum from the secretary of the Army and chief of staff. But, that’s as far as they’ll go. Rather than exploring the benefits and resources offered on AKO, they’ll shun what is new and innovative for what is known and tried. These soldiers will still use their unit or installation e-mail addresses — and have to change them each time they change duty stations. They will clog our limited bandwidth by e-mailing huge files to multiple accounts. They will save files to their local “shared drives.” They will scurry like bugs on the outer edge of AKO, but are easily squashed by advances in technology.

The soldiers who will thrive in the AKO world, as the mammals did in olden times, are those who clearly embrace all the Army Portal offers. They’ll send digitally encrypted e-mail to other us.army.mil addresses. They’ll post large files to AKO’s knowledge collaboration centers for comment, thereby saving huge swaths of bandwidth for war fighters to use. They’ll share information through the collaboration cen-

ters, which they can access from any computer with an Internet connection — rather than only those with a local connection to a shared drive. These soldiers will make AKO an integrated part of how they operate.

For sure, some soldiers find transformational change to be difficult. And yet, as Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki has so aptly noted, irrelevance is even worse. Soldiers who allow themselves to become as relevant as the dinosaurs will surely go the way of the dinosaurs as well.

Soldiers who allow themselves to merely scurry around the edge of the Army are more bugs than key players.

But, the soldiers who embrace AKO and all it offers will find themselves integral to daily operations of this network-centric Army, just as the mammals are to life on Earth today.

The metaphor of mammals, bugs and dinosaurs is just a more colorful way of saying there are three types of people in the Army. Those who make things happen are the mammals. Those who watch those who make things happen are the bugs. And those who say, “what happened?” well, they are the dinosaurs.

Informed soldiers who use AKO as a routine part of their daily mission are the ones who are making it happen for the Army. On the fast-paced, highly lethal battlefields of the 21st century, these “wired” soldiers allow us to see first, understand first, act first and finish decisively.

The time is now for us all to become AKO mammals if we want to win and thrive in the Army of One.

Feedback

Who will win the Master’s Golf Tournament?



“I get kind of busy, so I don’t really follow golf.”

Staff Sgt. Matthew Timms
Company A, 369th Signal Battalion



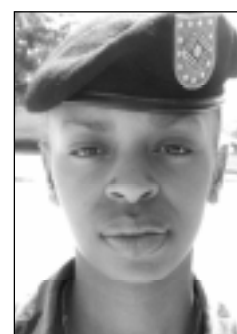
“Tiger Woods is the only golfer I know, so I guess he’ll win.”

Pvt 1st Class Jarod Howard
Company B, 447th Signal Battalion



“Tiger Woods, because he’s young and has a lot of years of golf left in him. He’s going to take it.”

Staff Sgt. Carlos Calvo
Company A, 369th Sig. Bn.



“I’m really not a fan of golf, so I really wouldn’t know.”

Spc. Jamia White
Company A, 369th Sig. Bn.



“Woods. He wins all the time.”
Donald Maclean
Program Assistant, Teen Center

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Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

Postal service offers tips for mail sent to Kuwait

WASHINGTON - APO ZIP codes for units in Kuwait and nearby countries are available only to family members and close friends of deployed soldiers, officials said, due to anthrax and other terrorist threats.

Programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" were cancelled more than a year ago. While these programs were popular with the public during Desert Storm and other operations, officials said security concerns and transportation constraints with military mail led to their cancellation. Websites such as **anyservicemember.navy.mil** and Army Knowledge Online e-mail have been suggested as alternate means to contact soldiers.

Family members who send regular mail need to use the soldier's full name (without rank), unit and APO address. Letters to Kuwait will normally take seven to 10 days, according to the Military Postal Service Agency. Priority parcels will normally take 10 to 15 days. Surface Air Mail, or SAM packages, will normally take about 24 days, according to MPSA officials.

Each country has customs regulations that apply to all incoming mail. These may include prohibitions on certain kinds of food or entertainment products.

Host countries mostly prohibit the entry of alcoholic beverages of any kind, narcotics, munitions, pork and pork by-products, pornography, and material contrary to the Islamic religion.

Letter mail is not being

opened unless it appears unusually bulky, officials said, in which case it may be examined to see if it contains contraband, such as drugs. Parcel mail is being examined on a spot-check basis to determine conformity with host country customs regulations and for terrorist-type mailing.

Some military units may have additional restrictions imposed by the theater commander, such as size and weight restrictions, to ensure logistics support can handle the mail without delays. The maximum length of a package in any category is 48 inches.

Military ZIP code restrictions may change as military units move to different locations, officials said. All applicable restrictions for about 3,000 overseas military ZIP codes are entered into the U.S. Postal Service computer terminals and published in the Postal Bulletin. The general public may review details of all applicable restrictions by going to any branch post office or the USPS public web page **www.usps.com**.

Here's how to access this file:

- The customer should click on the USPS web site.
- Type "Postal Bulletin" in the search engine, this will bring up the page for the bulletins.
- Click on Bulletin, On this screen the customer will see "VIEW ISSUES."
- At "VIEW ISSUES" click current issue and this will bring you to the PDF file.
- Click on PDF file and this will bring up the Postal Bulletin.
- At this point the cus-

tomers can navigate to the Postal Bulletin page that contain the Military ZIP Code information.

Other tips the postal service advises to help ensure timely delivery of mail:

Wrap packages securely

- Liquid-filled containers tend to break.
- Powdered items can open during transit causing concern over what kind of substance it is. Please pack the items in sealed plastic bags.
- Contraband items are confiscated. These include alcohol, tobacco and pornography.

Label packages properly and list all contents

- There is a space on the customs form to declare if it is a gift or merchandise.
- When family members send items Space Available Mail, the packages might take longer.
- Families should not put the country or the base camp's city on the mail, officials said, because it might get sent through the host country's mail system.

Most areas of the Middle East have been authorized Free Mail for personal correspondence being sent from the service member overseas back to the U.S. However, family members sending mail to service members in a free mail zone must still include postage. Soldiers are briefed on the Free Mail procedures, officials said, when they are deployed to a Free Mail area.

SMART program

Master Sgt. Mark Wade
Special to The Signal

One of the good news stories to come out of all the terrorism and heighten security is how patriotic people have become.

Operation SMART (Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team) is one way that we as soldiers can display our patriotism and contribute to make our Army better.

Operation SMART was developed as an integral team effort in helping meet the Army's recruiting mission. The Sergeant Major of the Army organized Operation SMART.

The idea of the program is rewarding any soldier who refers a potential applicant that results in an enlistment in the Regular Army or the Army Reserve with a coin and a certificate from the Sergeant Major of the Army.

At the end of the year the individual with the best record of referrals and resulting enlistment will be invited, along with their unit support officers to the Annual Chief of Staff of the Army, Recruiter of Excellence Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army will personally recognize them for their achievement.

All soldiers should support recruiting and publicize the SMART program. The Army is counting on you.

For more information about operation SMART, call Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons, Directorate of Human Resources, at 791-7985.

Award winning nominations

From the Equal Opportunity office

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council Meritorious Service Award is presented to military personnel who have made significant contributions to the advancement of Asian Pacific Americans and the promotion of equal opportunity, diversity, and racial harmony within their units or communities surrounding their installation.

The award will be presented during the 2003 FAPAC Conference, May 12 to 16 in Arlington. Leaders are encouraged to submit their nominations to the EO Office, Building 25706, Barnes Avenue no later than April 8.

Organizations that submit nominations should be prepared to pay the travel and per diem cost. For additional information, please contact EO at 791-2014. National Image, Inc. is so-

liciting nominations for the 2003 Meritorious Service Award for Military Personnel. The award recognizes outstanding military personnel from the various services who have contributed to increased opportunities for Hispanic Americans, and/or their local community.

The Meritorious Service Award will be presented during the "Salute to Hispanics In The Military" banquet held at the 2003 Image, Inc. National Conference.

The Conference is scheduled for May 19-22, in Hollywood, Calif. Nominations must be submitted to the Equal Opportunity Office no later than April 8.

Organizations must be prepared to pay travel and per diem costs for their nominee, if selected. For additional information/criteria, contact the EO Office at 791-2014.

Out with the old ... Fort Gordon undergoes experimental changes in training TDY

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

"We really like to think of this post as being a leader for the Army in a lot of different ways, and this is just one more," Terence Smith, deputy garrison commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, said.

So what is this new change Fort Gordon is undergoing? Well, once again, it has to do with training, Smith said. He said soldiers who come here on temporary duty for training purposes will no longer be handling their food and lodging under the guidelines of the old TDY system.

The new system is called Military Training Service Support, and Smith explained how it functions.

Previously, when a soldier came here for training on TDY, they were allotted \$28 for daily food expenses and reimbursement for lodging from their home station, Smith said. Smith explained that this money would be issued to the home station through the Department of the Army.

Under the new system, Smith said that soldiers stay at Morale, Welfare and Recreation lodging such as Ring Hall, Griffith Hall and Stinson Hall. The TDY students will also eat at Morale, Welfare Recreation facilities such as the Signal Café or the Gordon Club, or in some cases, the dining facilities.

"We take care of your lodging, you don't just go out and find a hotel some place," Smith said. "In case we

don't have vacant lodging available on post, then we'll have contracts with hotels off post with special rates for our personnel. That's called the Lodging Success Program."

The Lodging Success Program is already in place at other installations, and is in the works here, Smith said.

Smith said the TDY students are entered into a computer system and swipe their ID cards at the sponsored eating and lodging facilities to prove they are entitled to the services there through the MTSS program. Based on the amount of cards that have been scanned, Fort Gordon is then reimbursed the soldier's expenses to repay the dining facilities or MWR facilities.

"Some of it (i.e., Army TDY funding) still goes to the home station, because you still have full per diem on the weekend, incidental expenses, and of course, you still have the cost of transportation from the home station to here, so those funds still go to the home station," Smith said.

Instead of allotting a soldier \$28 daily for meals under the old system, Smith said under the new system it costs \$23.75 a day to feed the soldiers three meals at MWR facilities, and \$8.10 at the dining facilities. As Smith explained, this means the Army saves \$4.25 daily for each TDY student who eats at MWR facilities and almost \$20 daily for each who eats at a troop dining facility. This will quickly add up

to big savings for the Army and the American taxpayer.

"The main advantage we anticipate from this is that it should save the Army a lot of money over time," Smith said.

Since the additional business is going to MWR, which contributes to soldier's activities on post, Smith said that soldiers will also benefit from the MTSS system.

Smith said Fort Gordon has already seen benefits from MTSS.

"The renovations we did

at the Signal Café are all part of this," Smith explained. "These renovations were made possible because of our signing up to be a test site. We were able to get some of the savings that the Army generated to defray the costs of starting it here."

In October 2002, Fort Lee actually became the first Army installation to pilot the new TDY system, Smith said. Fort Gordon followed suit in mid-February 2003, and has roughly followed the same program Fort Lee has in place, al-

though Smith said it has slightly modified some things. One of the things Fort Gordon is doing differently than Fort Lee, Smith said, is that soldiers are still allowed to eat wherever they chose on weekends at the full \$28 per diem rate.

Based on how the program goes here and at Fort Lee, Smith said the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas White, who initiated the plan, is expected to make a decision on implementing the program on a wider scale later

this summer.

Smith said questionnaires have been sent out to soldiers participating in the new program, and though some have said they miss the freedom of going off post to find a place to stay and eat, he said the overall feedback on the new program has been positive.

"We think we've got a good program in place here," Smith said. "Good for the Army, good for Fort Gordon and good for the soldiers."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

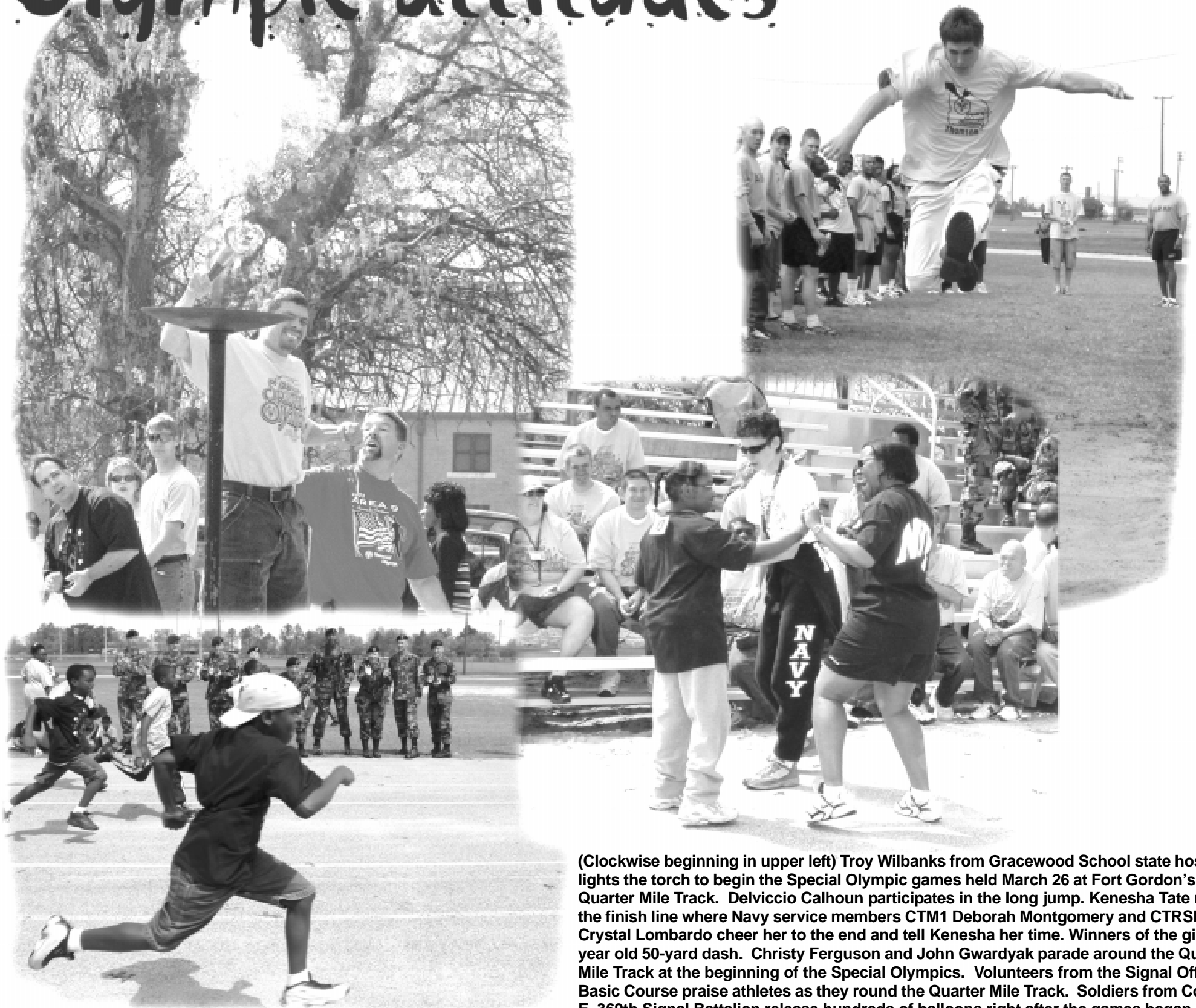
(Right) 2nd Lt. Brian Kriek, from the Signal Officer Basic Course, 003-03, swipes his ID card as part of the new Military Training Service Support program. Fort Gordon is one of only two installations in the Army that is experimenting with MTSS.



(Left) Warrant Officer Darin Webb from Warrant Officer Basic Course, 251 A, grabs lunch at Signal Cafe. The cafe is just one of many MWR eating establishments MTSS students may eat. MTSS students may choose anything on the menu up to their allotted amount per meal.

Spectrum

Olympic attitudes



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

(Clockwise beginning in upper left) Troy Wilbanks from Gracewood School state hospital lights the torch to begin the Special Olympic games held March 26 at Fort Gordon's Quarter Mile Track. Delvicio Calhoun participates in the long jump. Kenesha Tate runs to the finish line where Navy service members CTM1 Deborah Montgomery and CTRSN Crystal Lombardo cheer her to the end and tell Kenesha her time. Winners of the girls 5-7 year old 50-yard dash. Christy Ferguson and John Gwardyak parade around the Quarter Mile Track at the beginning of the Special Olympics. Volunteers from the Signal Officer Basic Course praise athletes as they round the Quarter Mile Track. Soldiers from Company E, 369th Signal Battalion release hundreds of balloons right after the games began. Athletes hold a sign explaining 'It's all about attitude,' a common idea at Special Olympics. Young boys sprint to the finish line in the 50-yard dash.



Three generations of family work in joint environment with US Army

Denise Allen
Staff writer

It was an invaluable experience for Lt. Sabine Schwiebert.

"I got a lot of responsibility for patients and a lot more practical experience," said Lt. Schwiebert, who finished a four-week internship at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center on March 19.

Lt. Schwiebert is a university student from Germany who serves in the German Air Force. She is the daughter of Lt. Col. Rainer Schwiebert, the German liaison officer at Fort Gordon, and is the third generation of Schwieberts whose military careers brought them into a joint working environment with the U.S. Army.

Lt. Schwiebert is nearing the end of her third year at the university. She has about three more years before she completes her courses.

Lt. Col. Schwiebert said having a German medical student at the hospital was unusual.

"There is a German doctor every summer, but we've never had any German students," he said.

He hopes that his daughter's experience will open the door to other foreign students.

"We have had wonderful support. It's not easy to integrate a foreign student," he said. "We're very thankful for the opportunity to serve here."

Lt. Schwiebert said she wanted to come to a U.S. military hospital to learn more about the way medical staff worked together.

"They work much more in teams over here," she said.

A difference she has found in the U.S. and German systems is that in Germany only those serving in the military are treated in military hospitals. Their family members must be treated in civilian hospitals.

Lt. Schwiebert wanted to go into military medicine because it offers women more of an opportunity to have a balance between career and



Courtesy photos

(Above left) Lt. Sabine Schwiebert, who worked a four-week internship at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, is shown with her father, Lt. Col. Rainer Schwiebert, Fort Gordon's German liaison officer. (Above right) Maj. Irmfried Schwiebert, Maj. Herman O. Starfinger look as Maj. Kenneth E. Hunter points out wire photo machine. (Photo circa 1956)

family than in the civilian realm.

Lt. Schwiebert follows in the footsteps of her father and grandfather who have worked to forge close ties with the American Army.

Lt. Col. Schwiebert has been at Fort Gordon since July 2000.

"I wanted to join the Signal Corps because I was interested in technical things," he said.

He joined the German Army the day after his father, Irmfried, retired from it in December 1972.

His father joined the Reichswehr and served during World War II. The Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I limited the country's official Armed Forces to 100,000.

Many of those within his father's ranks opposed the views of Adolf Hitler, but they were a small voice.

"There was a strong anti-Nazi" sentiment, he said.

Hitler amassed his own private Army — the SA or Sturm Abteilung. By 1934, the SA had more than 4 million men, and the infamous Schutzstaffel or SS had more than 800,000 by 1944.

"He suffered and felt misused by the German government and by Hitler," Lt. Col. Schwiebert said.

While serving on the Russian front near the war's end, Irmfried Schwiebert was captured and spent five years as a prisoner of war in Siberia.

The extreme weather conditions, lack of nutritious food and exposure to fleas and other ver-

min resulted in many casualties among the war prisoners.

When he returned to Germany in 1950, "he was not in good condition," said Lt. Col. Schwiebert.

He had lost a lot of weight and had some kidney problems. It was a while before he recovered.

With the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955 and a rebuilding of German armed forces, officials purchased U.S. Army Signal Corps equipment such as radios.

Irmfried Schwiebert joined the new German armed forces as a Signal officer.

In 1956, he and a group of three others including Herman O. Starfinger, who would later become a general and the chief of the German Signal Corps, traveled to Fort Monmouth, N.J., then home of the Signal Corps, where they received several months of training.

"He enjoyed that time in the U.S.," Lt. Col. Schwiebert said.

His father died in 1994.

Lt. Col. Schwiebert has also enjoyed his time in the U.S. He has already received one extension for his time here and hopes to be able to stay in the country long enough for his son, Ralph, to graduate from Lakeside High School. Ralph is a sophomore there.

31 ways to pray for our military

Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Riddle

15th Regimental Signal Brigade

Max Lucado is a Christian author who is very popular for his many wonderful books about the Lord. A week before Coalition Forces commenced their invasion to liberate the Iraqi people, Max Lucado, along with several other well-known ministers, were invited to have lunch with President George Bush at the White House.

As the ministers sat down to lunch and waited for the President to appear, Max said that he was expecting President Bush to walk into the room looking tired, serious, and depressed.

When the President came in, Max said he looked totally the opposite. The President was energetic, positive, smiling, and very focused on his meeting with the ministers. Max said that he asked President Bush how he could seem so calm, peaceful, and upbeat in the face of war and all the tragedy that has struck the American people since Sept. 11, 2001.

The President's reply was, "I'm feeling stronger now than I've ever been in my life. And the reason is because the American people are praying for me.

When I stay on my knees, that's when I have power." The ministers then asked the President how he would like them to pray for him, and how their congregations back home should be praying. Bush said, "Pray, first, for clarity of mind so that I can make wise decisions, and, second, pray for my wife and two daughters and for their safety."

I share this with you as an encouragement during this time of war and concern for our nation, our military, and our loved ones and friends who are deployed. The President believes



that prayer makes a difference and so do I, as do most of you who are reading this.

The Bible says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16b, New King James Version) That is true of an individual as it is, I believe, of a nation when its people are sincerely seeking God and his help and guidance.

The Psalmist writes, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12, New King James Version)

We have been called upon to pray for our President and our military for we believe that prayer makes a difference.

In an effort to pray more consistently and effectively it helps to know what we should pray for, just as those ministers asked President Bush how and what they should pray for. I ran across a list of ways to pray and I share them with you:

"31 Ways to Pray for Our Military"

1. *Protection* (Psalm 34:7, Psalm 32:7)
2. *Wisdom* (James 1:5)
3. *Peace* (John 14:26, Philippians 4:7)
4. *Presence of God* (Psalm 46:1)
5. *Inner Strength* (Ephesians 3:16)

6. *Clear Mind* (2 Timothy 1:17)
7. *Security* (Psalm 17:8)
8. *Physical Health* (Philippians 4:13)
9. *Courage* (Joshua 1:9)
10. *To Help Others* (Philippians 2:3-4)
11. *To be aware of God's love for them* (Psalm 42)
12. *Family concerns* (1 Peter 5:7)
13. *Rest* (Matthew 11:28-29)
14. *Adjust to time change, sleep* (Psalm 4:8)
15. *Unity in purpose* (1 Peter 3:8)
16. *Loneliness* (Deuteronomy 31:6)
17. *Children of military* (Isaiah 54:13; Psalm 68:5)
18. *Spouses of military* (Isaiah 40:11)
19. *Patience while waiting* (Psalm 33:20)
20. *God directing their steps* (Psalm 32:8)
21. *Diligent in their work* (Colossians 3:23)
22. *Resist temptation* (1 Corinthians 10:13)
23. *Discernment* (Philippians 1:9)
24. *Traveling safety* (Psalm 121:7-8)
25. *Fighting depression* (Psalm 42:5)
26. *Protection from evil* (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
27. *Encourage those around them* (Proverbs 11:25)
28. *Personal prayer life* (Jeremiah 33:3)
29. *Deliverance from the enemy* (Psalm 31:15)
30. *Angels to guard them* (Psalm 34:7)
31. *Persistence for the task* (Galatians 6:9)

Let us be faithful in prayer during these trying times and always.

As long as Operation Iraqi Freedom and "the war on terrorism" exist, let us be faithful prayer warriors for our warriors and fellow citizens who have committed themselves to defending our beloved nation.

Sergeants Major Course postponed, shortened

Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
Army News Service

FORT BLISS, Texas - The resident Sergeants Major Course, Class 54, slated to start in August, has been postponed to January because of current deployments.

The course will also be condensed to six months from its usual nine-month curriculum, according to Lt. Col. John Kirby, assistant commandant at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

"This is a one-time change to accommodate all the soldiers who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom," Kirby said. "Our folks in the Directorate of Training and Doctrine are currently reworking the program of instruction to accommodate the more condensed course schedule."

Prior to August 1995, the Sergeants Major Course was six months, but was extended to nine months after the Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course was added, said

Sgt. Maj. John Wyche, the Deputy Chief of Staff G3 sergeant major.

The Battle Staff NCO Course is used to prepare staff sergeants through sergeants major to serve in staff positions at battalion and higher level. The course will be removed for Class 54, Wyche said.

Class 54 starts Jan. 12, 2004 and runs through June 30. Students may report as early as Dec. 1, and no later than Jan. 5. However, they are autho-

rized to move their families early to Fort Bliss. They can also request an exception to policy to retain housing at their current duty station. The losing installation commander will be the approving authority for those waivers.

"Affording students the opportunity to move their families early gives them a chance to move into government housing, stabilize exceptional family members and enroll children in school," Kirby explained. Chil-

dren must be enrolled in El Paso schools by July 27, in order to attend the first day of school, Aug. 19.

Deployed soldiers scheduled to attend the 17-day resident phase of the Non-Resident Sergeants Major Course June 7 - 20, will be rescheduled to attend later this year. Those not deployed are still slated to attend the June course.

Editor's note: Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter is the public affairs NCO at the Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss.

Spotlight on:

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Philip C. Brennan

Unit: Echo Company, 369th Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade

Hometown: Warrenton, Missouri (50 miles west of St. Louis, Mo.)

Family: Mary L. Brennan, wife; David J. H. Brennan, son; Jonathan C. H. Brennan, son; Isabel C. H. Brennan, daughter

What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant? The hours! (just kidding) I enjoy the process of influencing the soldiers throughout their training, setting the example and watching them mature.

How long at Fort Gordon? Two years (only one as a U.S. Army drill sergeant)

What do you want to accomplish in the military? After my tour as a drill sergeant I would like to instruct Officer Basic Course and pass on some of my knowledge and experience to the Officers Corps. Ultimately I will get back to the fighting divisions where a 31U Commo chief is always needed to keep 'em talking. I look forward to progressing through the ranks and becoming a brigade chief, division chief, a unit first sergeant, sergeant major and hopefully a command sergeant major. But for now I look forward to accomplishing my mission here so these men and women can join their units and make a direct impact on their unit's mission.



Brennan

Easter and Passover

Christian

Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service: **April 20**, 6:30 a.m., Freedom Park

Catholic Activities/Masses: Good Shepherd Chapel, Building 29608, Barnes Avenue

Stations of the Cross **April 9, 16, 6:30 p.m.**
Penance Service, **April 14, 6:30 p.m.**

Holy Thursday, **April 17, 7 p.m.**
Good Friday, **April 18, 7 p.m.**

Easter Vigil Mass, **19 April 19, 7 p.m.**
Easter Sunday Masses, **April 20, 9:30 and 11 a.m.**

(No CCD or Sacramental Preparation on April 20)

Protestant Easter Events/Services:

Triumphal Entry March, **April 13, 9:30 a.m., IG Office (Rice Road) to Chapel**



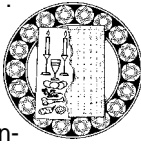
"Living Last Supper" **April 16 and 17, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel**
Good Friday Service, **April 18, noon, Bicentennial Chapel**
Easter Egg Hunt, **April 19, 1 p.m., Religious Education Center, Bldg. 39713**
Protestant Sunday School Program, **Royal Signal Hall, April 20, 9 a.m.**
Easter Sunday Services **April 20, regular times/locations, 9 and 11 a.m.**

Jewish

Jewish Passover begins **April 17**. Call the local Synagogues for services times.

Conservative: Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, 935 Johns Road, Augusta, 733-9491.

Reformed: Walton Way Temple Congregation Children of Israel, 3005 Walton Way Extension, Augusta, 738-8579.



‘Our Country, Our Children’ Month of the military child

Military children vital part of military community

April is recognized as the “Month of the Military Child” and “Child Abuse Prevention Month.” This year, the theme is “Our Country, Our Children: Protecting Them Both.” During this month, the health, well-being and happiness of all children in the Army family will be celebrated.

It is the Army’s duty to protect and defend the Constitution, the country and its citizens. By protecting our children, our nation’s future is likewise protected. Soldiers, civilian employees and family members can make a positive contribution to the growth and development of children.

Each of us can help build strong families and communities, instill confidence in children and acknowledge that child abuse is one danger we can control and prevent.

Every member of the military community must understand that any form of child abuse opposes Army values and undermines the mission.

Everyone in the community has the responsibility to keep children safe, reach out to other families and children, stay informed and connected, report child abuse and share time and skills with other parents.

As a commander, I support the Family Advocacy Program in its child abuse prevention mission. Child abuse prevention is a command priority at Fort Gordon. During April and throughout the year, please join in protecting America’s future by protecting America’s children.

Janet A. Hicks
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

2nd Lt. Diane Weed
305th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

MCGUIRE AFB, N.J. (AFPN) — April is the Month of the Military Child, celebrated annually in conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

There are about 1 million confirmed cases of child abuse in the United States out of more than 3 million reported cases to child protective service agencies, according to Prevent Child Abuse America, a child abuse prevention organization.

“Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to focus on the protection and care of our most vulnerable and trusting family members,” said Richard Parry of the Fort Dix Family Support Center, who offered several parenting tips:

— Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know that they are special and loved. Educate yourself about a child’s development process so you can have reasonable expectations about what

your child can and cannot do.

Help yourself. When the problems of everyday life pile up to the point where you feel overwhelmed and out of control, take time out. Do not take it out on your child. Take a deep breath, turn on some music and know where to get help.

• Learn what to do if your baby will not stop crying. Although it can be frustrating to hear your baby cry, especially when nothing you do seems to work, never shake a baby.

• Monitor your child’s television and computer use. Watching violent films on TV or playing violent computer games can harm young children. These films and games not only scare them, but they also teach them that aggression is a good way to handle frustration and solve problems. Instead, spend time actively playing with your child or read to them.

• Report suspected abuse or neglect. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of every adult in our community.

“Child Abuse Prevention

Month is an appropriate opportunity to remind ourselves of our collective responsibility to prevent the abuse and neglect that robs so many of our society’s children of their childhood, their sense of security and well-being, and their future,” Parry said. “Together we really can make a difference.”

Editor’s note: The above information is courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service.

Events for Month of the military child

The Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service is sponsoring several events during April to highlight awareness of child abuse and to focus on keeping children safe. Show your support for this effort by proudly wearing blue ribbons throughout the month of April and by attending one or more of our special events.

April 7-11 at Child and Youth Services: Teen University

April 17 from noon - 1 p.m. in Room 367 Darling Hall: “Children, Terrorism and Crisis” (Sponsored by the Exceptional Family Member Program)

April 28 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. in Room 367 Darling Hall: “Blended Families”
For more information on these or any other ACS programs, call 791-3579.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

(Above) Children from Fort Gordon’s Child Development Center, Toddler 2 class learn and play together. CDC has a variety of activities planned to honor these military children.

(Right) Military child, Daniel Dalle Lucca, stays in the Infant/Pre-toddler class. CDC takes care of children as young as 6 weeks.



Community Events

Career fair

SmartStart for New Vets is hosting a Military/Civilian Career Fair, **April 25** at Clayton College and State University’s Center for Continuing Education in Morrow, Ga.

The Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will have recruiters from local and national companies seeking qualified applicants.

Clayton College and State University’s Center for Continuing Education is located approximately 20 miles south of Atlanta.

Visit the SmartStart website at www.smartstartvets.org for more information and directions.

National Library Week

Woodworth Library will sponsor several activities **April 6-12**. The theme is “@ your library”.

Monday is National Library Week kickoff at 11 a.m. There will be refreshments, a special guest reader, announcement of essay winners and recognition for volunteers.

Tuesday will be a visit from the MP crime dog as well as another guest reader.

Wednesday will have Mr. Capbo, the clown and a display from Army Community Services.

Thursday will have a guest reader from Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

April 12 soldiers from Company D, 551st Signal Battalion will come in as guest readers.

All events are held at Woodworth Library and begin at 11 a.m.

For more information, call Liz Knight at 791-7323.

Yard recognition

The Fort Gordon Family Housing Beautification program kicks off in April. The program intends to promote continual beautification of Fort Gordon housing areas and recognize excellence in the maintenance of individual quarters areas, and will run through September.

One Yard of the Month will be selected from Maglin, McNair and Olive Terrace. There will be two selections for Yard of the Month from Gordon Terrace (one in the 1600 and 1700 area and one in the 1800 and 1900 area).

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483.

EWC scholarships

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives’ Club scholarship applications are in the counselor’s office at all area high schools and available to all

ID card holders. Deadline for submission is **April 30**.

For more information concerning scholarships, call Shirley Johnson at 791-7656 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

Life learning center

Life Learning Center classes are offered to veterans and the general public at no cost.

April 24 at 2:30 p.m. - “Change! Who’s in Control” - Class will discuss changes in feelings, thoughts, emotions, behaviors and personality.

Learn about things that can change and about those that are hard to change. Find out what must exist to make change happen in yourself and/or a family member. Call 731-7275, Ext. 7989 for location and to register.

OWC

The Officers’ Wives’ Club thrift shop picks up and takes in donations.

Drop off your donations at thrift shop or contact Monnie Castro at 481-8065 for pick ups.

They now have a wide variety of spring selections including clothing and Easter decorations.

The thrift shop now accepts Visa and Mastercard as well as

debit cards.

The thrift shop is open **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Flea market

The Officers’ Wives’ Club and the Directorate of Community Activities host the Spring Flea Market, **May 3**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Engineer Field.

Spaces to sell items are available and cost \$25, \$35 and \$45. Single spaces for E-4 and below and/or residents of on-post housing are \$15 with a limit of 2 per family.

For more information, call 706-481-8065 and leave a message.

Military Child Month

The Directorate of Community Activities will sponsor a celebration for “Month of the Military Child.” Activities will take place on the Youth Services Football Field **April 26**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will have clowns, games, displays, pony rides and free popcorn.

For more information, call Michelle Linder at 791-6500/7575.

BIG scholarships

Tuition assistance scholarships are being awarded by

Army to tighten travel-card policy

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Using the government travel card when changing duty stations will no longer be permitted, and Army officials said non-authorized use of the card will be met with harsher penalties.

Congress directed the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive disciplinary policy for military personnel and civilians who misuse the Bank of America travel card. The policy is scheduled to be released soon, said Francis A. Rago, the U.S. Army Travel Card Program manager.

In addition to discontinuing use of the travel card during permanent change-of-station moves, a memorandum from the Office of the Secretary of the Army states that cards are to be deactivated prior to departure from duty stations, unless there is temporary duty en route.

Other changes to the travel card program, effective immediately, are: commands and activities should not use the card to pay for conference registration fees; charge cards of mobilized reservists will be transferred to active-duty agencies and deactivated until use is required; cardholders are not required to use their card for travel expenses associated with mission deployments.

At the installation level, one of the first changes program coordinators made was to put the accounts of infrequent travelers in a closed or inactive status.

“We started cutting our list of cardholders two years ago by deactivating accounts, and we have a success story now,” said Cynthia Jackson, from the Garrison Resource Management Service Center at Fort McPherson, Ga.

“The Army’s goal is for installations to keep dollars delinquent below 4.5 percent and account delinquencies below 3 percent, ours is at 1 percent,” Jackson said. “Creating a smaller list of cardholders allows us to keep tabs on our users. We know who is traveling, and what they are doing while in travel status.”

Fort McPherson is following the example set by DoD and the Army, by limiting their number of cardholders. The Army has cancelled more than 156,000 travel-card accounts since October, and currently has 280,000 open accounts. The number of accounts will fluctuate, and once

current legislation is implemented, cards will not be issued to those who are not credit-worthy, Pentagon officials said.

Commanders and program coordinators have always had the responsibility of maintaining accountability of their cardholders, but according to the January memorandum from Army Secretary Thomas White’s office, travel-card coordinators now must review at least 10 percent of active accounts monthly. Investigating accounts is how Jackson said her organization keeps cardholders out of danger of nonpayment.

“If we notice that an account is 30 days late, we contact the commander or unit point of contact before the account goes past 60 days,” Jackson said.

The travel card program is simple, Rago said. Cardholders use the card only for official travel expenses, a claim for reimbursement is done immediately upon return, and split disbursement is used to pay their travel card bill.

Under split disbursement, part of a reimbursement would be sent directly to Bank of America and the balance to the traveller’s bank account.

Congress is now considering legislation that could mandate split disbursement for some cardholders.

In any case, not paying the bill could affect the user’s credit and security clearance, Pentagon officials said. At Congress’ direction, there will be a government-wide quarterly report on the travel card program, to include a statistical summary of disciplinary action taken, officials added. Misuse will also go through security channels to determine whether there should be an impact on the cardholder’s security clearance, Pentagon officials said.

Three years ago DoD mandated that federal employees use the travel card for all official travel expenses such as lodging, transportation, rental cars and other allowable charges. That changed after July 2002, when a U.S. General Accounting Office audit found numerous incidents of cardholder abuse, lack of accountability and inadequate command emphasis.

“The GAO report correctly pointed out many problems with the Army’s implementation of the travel-card program, and the Army is increasing scrutiny and taking corrective actions to resolve misuse and delinquency in the Army Travel Card Program,” Pentagon officials said.

Blacks In Government to graduating high school seniors in Richmond and Columbia counties.

Applicants will be judged based on scholastic standing or grade aptitude, as well as citizenship, character, participation in school and community activities, the applicant’s stated desire and sincerity for furtherance of his/her education and letters of recommendations.

Applications are available in the guidance office of all area high schools. Deadline for applications is **April 11**.

For more information call the Greater Augusta Area Chapter Blacks In Government Scholarship Chairperson, Thomas A. Brown Jr. at 706-736-0778.

Battalion town hall

The 442nd Signal Battalion’s Family Readiness Group is sponsoring a town hall meeting, **April 15** at 5 p.m. in the Signal Theatre.

The event is for all assigned and attached personnel (military and civilian) and their families.

For more information, call 791-2516/2727.

Teaching opportunities

Wanda Oldfield of the CSRA

Regional Education Service Agency and Heather Eakin from Augusta State University will conduct a briefing on the Teacher Alternative Preparation Program, **April 17**, from 1 - 3 p.m. in Olmstead Hall.

TAPP is designed for individuals who already hold a baccalaureate degree in a field other than Education. The program consists of two phases:

Phase I: Introduction to teaching - Offered as an intensive course in the summer and Saturdays in the fall.

Phase II: Training period - Includes coursework at Augusta State University, CSRA RESA, and the local school system.

Candidates can fulfill requirements for certification in early childhood, special education, middle grades and secondary. Middle grades and secondary candidates’ content areas include science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, music, art, Spanish and business education.

For more information, call Wanda Oldfield at 706-556-6225 or e-mail: wanda@csraresa.org.

For reservations, call the Education Center at 791-2000.

This program is eligible for Troops to Teachers funding.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Eisenhower to host golf tournament

The seventh annual Eisenhower Golf Tournament to benefit Fisher House will take place **today** with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

The cost of entering the tournament is \$50 per person, or \$200 per team, which includes a bag lunch and buffet following the tournament. The format of the tournament will be four person scramble in men's, women's and mixed teams (select shot.)

Mulligans are available for \$5, and a Hole in One prize will be offered by Bobby Jones Ford, as well as prizes for the longest and most accurate drives.

To enter, make checks payable to Health Services Auxiliary, 3979 Hammonds Ferry, Evans, Ga., 30809 or drop off checks at the Fisher House on post.

For more information, call 854-9153 or 787-7100.

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 9 a.m. For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

Youth soccer registration

Youth soccer registration is open to boys and girls, ages 5 - 15 (must be 5 prior to April 1 may not be 15 before June 1).

All participants must be members of Children Youth Services, Central Registration, Building 40200, 42nd Street.

Current members may register at Youth Services, Building 45410. Sports fee is \$30. Yearly CYS fee is \$15 per child, \$35 for two or more children. For more information, call 791-3551/4455.

Meal deals

The Gordon Club offers 'Masters' Week' dinner specials.

April 8 is steak and shrimp or chicken and shrimp.

April 9 is a southern buffet.

April 10 is beef and burgundy.

April 11 is a seafood buffet.

The Gordon Club offers extended hours **April 8 - 11** from 5 - 9 p.m. and is open to the public.

For more information, call 791-6780.

Easter Brunch

The Gordon Club offers an Easter brunch **April 20** in the North Ballroom.

There are two seatings available from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The brunch is open to the public. Tickets are required and cost \$14/adults, \$8/children 5-8 and \$4/children 4 and under.

For more information, call 791-6780.

Fisher House celebrates 10th Anniversary

Time capsule ceremony, golf tournament benefit all part of week-long activities dedicated to charity



Illustration courtesy of www.fisherhouse.org

A painting of the Fisher House on post. The charity houses offer military family members a safe place to stay during times of need and crisis.

Kathleen Haskell
Special to The Signal

Augusta is known for azaleas and Fort Gordon, home of the Army Signal Corps. The red brick Georgian-colonial Fisher House, with its southern charm, is known as a home away from home for families of patients at Eisenhower Army Medical Center since 1993. The house is also open to military and retiree families of patients at the Medical College of Georgia, the Augusta Regional Burn Center, and the Augusta Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

The Fisher House at Fort Gordon celebrated its 10th Anniversary on April 3rd at 10 a.m. Everyone was invited to attend the ceremony, which included Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, commander, Eisenhower

Army Medical Center, several Fisher House Foundation dignitaries, and many Fisher House volunteers, Health Services Auxiliary members, and supporters. Earlier, Schoomaker had proclaimed the entire week as Fisher House Week at the hospital.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was when a time capsule, which was buried when the structure was first completed, was dug up. The contents of the time capsule were a surprise to everyone since there was no documentation of what the container held. The time capsule contents were put on display at the Fisher House after the ceremony and new items will be buried in the time capsule for the 20th anniversary celebration in 2013.

The Fisher House Golf Tournament, one of the major fundraisers of the year for the Fort Gordon Fisher House, will

be held today. Information about the golf tournament and a registration form can be found at the Fisher House, Gordon Lakes Golf Course, the Red Cross office on the 3rd floor of Eisenhower, or by visiting www.fisherhouse.org/FisherHouse.pdf.

More coverage on both the time capsule/Fisher House 10th Anniversary celebration, as well as the golf tournament, will be upcoming in next week's issue of *The Signal*.

"A Home Away from Home"

The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. Because members of the military and their families are deployed worldwide and travel great distances for their specialized medical care, philanthropists and patriots Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher of New York have donated "comfort

homes," built on the grounds of military and VA major medical centers.

These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury. Zachary Fisher had donated 26 comfort homes prior to his passing in June 1999.

Today, the Fisher House Foundation operates under the leadership of Zachary's two nephews, Arnold and Tony Fisher, and grand-nephew, Kenneth Fisher. More Fisher Houses are under construction or in design and planning.

Fisher Houses provide temporary lodging in a "home away from home" atmosphere.

These houses are given as a gift to the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and Department of Veterans Affairs. Built on government land, they are operated and maintained by the respective service.

While Fisher Houses have full-time salaried managers, they depend on volunteers and voluntary support to enhance daily operations and program expansion. Fisher House Foundation, Inc. and many individual Fisher Houses also receive support through the Combined Federal Campaign.

History

The Fisher House program began in 1990 when founders Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher paid off the remaining mortgage on a six 2-bedroom unit apartment building in Portsmouth, Va., operated by the Chisolm Foundation. The apartments, located several blocks outside the main gate of the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, became the first Fisher House facility.

The first two Fisher Houses

designed and built by the Fishers opened in 1991 - at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A year later, the Air Force received its first Fisher House.

By 1993, the network had expanded to 12 houses, and Fisher House Foundation, Inc. was established as the national not-for-profit organization to coordinate private support and encourage public support for the program. In 1994, the program expanded to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

From 1990 through 1998, all Fisher Houses were given as gifts to the U.S. government by the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Armed Services Foundation. In 1999, the Fisher House Foundation assumed the mission of building new Fisher Houses.

By 2000, the program was in its 11th year, and had provided more than one million days of lodging to eligible families. In 2001, the Fisher House at Landstuhl, Germany, became the first Fisher House built outside the United States.

By year's end, 2002, there were 31 Fisher Houses located at 17 different military medical centers and six VA medical centers.

The number of guest families staying at the houses each year had risen to more than 7,000, and the estimate of dollars saved by these families over the cost of commercial lodging in the same area was \$7 million a year. More than 50,000 families were guests at a Fisher House since the program began.

**Some information for this article was compiled from www.fisherhouse.org.*

Fort Gordon Troop 99 takes Presidential Award at District Camporee

Capt. Ray De Lucio
Special to The Signal

So, what did you do this weekend?

Seven members of the Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 Dragon Patrol competed in the Chickasaw District Camporee hosted by the District's Order of the Arrow members March 28 to 30. A camporee is a scouting event that allows scouts to demonstrate their scouting and camping skills in individual and troop competitions. The seven Fort Gordon scouts who participated in the camporee included Aaron Lax, Senior Patrol Leader, Corderra Lee, Anthony De Lucio, Andrew Garner, Sam Stokes, Jus-

tin Pryor and Geoff Lentner.

The seven scouts competed in multiple events in competition against eight other troops from throughout the Augusta area. Awards were given out for the top three place winners. The Dragon Patrol competed in 14 separate events which included an orienteering course; knot tying relay that included seven different knots (2nd place); multiple first aid scenarios, plant identification (2nd place); iditerod sled race (3rd place); giant clove hitch knot tie using a 100 foot long rope (2nd place); campsite creation, design, and cleanliness (1st place), memorization skills; ultimate Frisbee (2nd place); basketball (3rd



Photos courtesy of Capt. Ray De Lucio

Members of the Troop 99 District Camporee Presidential Award-winning Fort Gordon Troop 99 are (left to right) Justin Pryor, Corderra Lee, Sam Stokes, Andrew Garner, Geoff Lentner, Anthony De Lucio and Aaron Lax.

place); fire-building without matches or lighters; main course cooking; side dish cooking (1st place); and dessert (1st place).

Each scout stood out in each area and through outstanding teamwork and individual skills allowed the Dragons to receive the Presidents award as the best overall troop at the camporee.

Aaron Lax led the way throughout the ultimate Frisbee competition scoring on several occasions. Geoff Lentner, a new scout to the patrol successfully tied one of the hardest knots, the sheepshank knot to lead the way in the knot-tying relay. Anthony De Lucio was able to light a fire in under a minute without the use of any matches, lighters, magnifying glass or lighter fluid. Justin Pryor nearly pulled out the basketball tournament for the troop by successfully hitting his free throw during overtime in the semi-finals.

Justin is the troop's newest member of Troop 99 as he received his Cub Scout Arrow of

Light Award and bridged over to the troop last week.

Corderra Lee was one of the main scouts involved in the establishment of the campsite and the primary cook for the scouts over the weekend.

Andrew Garner and Geoff Lentner were outstanding in their ability to identify, explain, and show the proper treatment for hypothermia and a compound fracture to the leg of an injured individual.

Sam Stokes successfully was able to identify nearly all items of the memorization competition and plants leading the way in that category.

Andrew Garner was also the lead singer of the troops skit during the campfire celebration completely befuddling nearly every individual in the audience with his version of "One fat hen and a couple of ducks."

Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Ryan received first place for his double chocolate cake topped with chocolate mouse dessert and fruchetta bread with Sicilian dipping sauce, side dishes which enhanced a 13 layer la-



Garner with a lizard friend found during yard clean-up.

sagna made by Troop Scoutmaster Ray De Lucio.

The main scout meal included breaded pork chops, mixed vegetables and pineapple upside down cake for dessert. All food items were prepared at the campsite over an open fire or propane stove.

All the scouts had a great time and enjoyed the competitions and camping with members of all kinds of troops.

The camporee also included three additional members of Troop 99. Tim DeBow, Andrew De Lucio, and Taten Wagner who served as planners, event staff, coordinators and administrative support.

So, what did you do this past weekend? If this sounds like fun and you are a young man between the ages of 11 and 18 come out and check us out. The troop meets each Monday evening during the school year at the scout building located in Brems Barracks, two buildings north of the self-help store at 7 p.m. The troop also goes camping at least once a month.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

April 4 - 6
Friday - Dark Blue (R)
Saturday - How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days (PG-13)
Late show - Deliver Us From Eva (R)
Sunday - How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days (PG-13)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

International training at Fort Gordon

Charlie Miller
Special to The Signal

“The U.S. military plays a crucial role in shaping the international security environment in ways that promote U.S. interests. Through overseas presence and peacetime engagement activities such as the Security Assistance Training Program and training exercises with allies and friends. Our armed Forces help to deter aggression and coercion, build coalitions, promote regional stability and serve as role models for militaries in emerging democracies.” - National Security Strategy, December 1999.

Developing and training the military forces of our friends and allies today have proven to be a top priority of the U.S. leadership. Training under the umbrella of the Security Assistance Training Program, was established by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act of 1976. Fort Gordon has trained well over 1,000 international military students over the past five years.

The students attend training with their American counterparts in all courses except the Signal Captains Career Preparatory Course.

This course prepares the international student for the Signal Captains Career Course, one of many courses attended by international military students.

Some of the subjects taught are: American government, political parties and elections, the American economy, human rights, computer operations, MSE Signal Unit, combat net radio planning and development.

The current class consists of students from Latvia, Turkey, Thailand, Pakistan, Brazil, Bulgaria and Jordan.

Fort Gordon is programmed each fiscal year for approximately 180 – 200 international military students. It is the job of the International Military Student Office, 442nd Signal Battalion, Leader College for Information Technology to conduct the SATP for the command.

In support of international military students the IMSO staff has the responsibility of coordinating training, lodging, transportation, providing special ID cards, and financial administration.

Because the international students are required to be proficient in English, they either attend the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Texas, before reporting to Fort Gordon or we administer an English comprehension level

exam to determine their proficiency. The international military students are expected to meet the same standards as their American counterpart.

Each international military student is provided a sponsor at the beginning of each course. The sponsorship program is one of the tools that make Security Assistance Training a success. In addition to providing assistance to the international military student, the sponsor and international student develop a bond that last forever.

It is not unusual to hear comments from American officers that once served as sponsor to an international military student about the renewal of their friendship and in some cases receiving assistance from this student while serving in a foreign country.

In addition to professional development, education and

training - activities such as the DoD Informational Program, encourage effective and mutually beneficial relationships and increased understanding between the U.S. and foreign countries. The IP provide the international military students with first hand information on how America is committed to the basic principles of human rights.

The primary goal of the IP is to expose international military students to such areas as U.S. government, judicial systems, media, industry, environmental protection, agriculture, economy, labor and management relations.

The IMSO arranges a wide variety of experiences through local orientations and visits to local schools, court systems and industries. All International military students attending the SCCC participate in the Washington, D.C., tour, sponsored by Department of Defense and

Training and Doctrine Command.

Other students have the opportunity to visit the Smoky Mountains, the Georgia State Capitol-Atlanta, the Space Museum in Huntsville, Ala., Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C., and Fort Pulaski and the Air Force Museum in Savannah, Ga. All IP activities are coordinated with the course manager and/or instructor to ensure students are not missing mandatory training.

The IMSO staff maintains close contact with each training course to ensure continued academic progress of each international student.

The IMSO and the Security Assistance Office, located in the American Embassy in foreign countries, use the same training management system as the U.S. Army; however, both offices uses an expanded

training system that is tailored for Security Assistance Training.

It is through this system that quotas, disclosures and financial matters are established. Each military department is responsible for the execution of the SATP; however, the State Department has overall management responsibility.

Information management and training coordination are the support factors, which the IMSO is committed to on a daily basis. This requires continuous contact with the Security Assistance Training Facility, executive agency for TRADOC, and/or foreign countries.

After the first week on duty in the IMSO, it becomes clear that you are engaged in international relations. Although, training is your primary mission, it is difficult to separate the two.



(Left to right) Maj. Fathy Khalil from Egypt and 1st Lt. Muslit A.H. Al-Otaibi from Saudi Arabia attend the Information System Operation Level Course 004-03 alongside U.S. Army officers. This is just one of many classes international students take.

(From left to right) 1st Lt. Nikola Hristovski and 1st Lt. Dalibor Glumac both from Macedonia are two of more than 1,000 international students Fort Gordon has trained in the past five years.

